



Department of Education, Sabaragamuwa Province – Sathi Pasala

Subject :- English Literature

Week - 2

Grade - 11

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The Bear

Find suitable quotations for the following plot development

- The conversation between Popova and Luka reveals that he is trying to convince her that she should enjoy life while her beauty lasts. He further highlights the futility of mourning for her dead husband for such a long time.

Eg :- “You're just destroying yourself. The maid and the cook have gone off fruit picking, every living being is rejoicing, even the cat understands how to enjoy herself and walks about in the yard, catching midges; only you sit in this room all day, as if this was a convent, and don't take any pleasure.....”

- Despite her late husband's unfaithfulness to her she, vows to prove her love by mourning for him till her death.
- She is irritated by Luka announcing the arrival of Smirnov to whom her dead husband owes 1200 robes. He asks for cash to pay the interest on a mortgage. Popova's peace is disturbed.
- She is willing to pay Smirnov only after her steward comes back the day after tomorrow. But Smirnov reiterates that he needs the money desperately.
- The argument builds up to a climax as Smirnov highlights the infidelity of women and Popova reveals the same about men.
- Popova insults Smirnov calling him a bear. Smirnov is asked to go out. He refuses. Popova calls Luka to show Smirnov out.
- The insulting continues.
- Smirnov suggests Popova should pay for insulting him by engaging in a duel with him.
- Popova brings her late husband's pistols but asks Smirnov to teach her how to fire.
- In teaching her, he is captivated by the beauty of her eyes and is touched by her boldness.
- The climax heightens as Popova suggests going out for the duel. Smirnov is not interested in the duel anymore as he cannot resist falling in love with her